

CAST AND CREW BIOS

SAMAYA AGARWAL (Pellegrina) is a junior, excited to be a part of her 6th Midtown production. Most recent credits include Matilda (Lavender) and Sweeney Todd (Jonas Fogg). Serving as VP on drama board, she looks forward to spending time with friends in drama clubs, musicals, and plays. She sends her sincere gratitude to Mr. Dreiling, Ms. Collins, and her parents for their continuous support, encouragement, and mentorship.

AIDEN ALLEN (Old Lady/Ocean/Doll) is a freshman at Midtown. This is her first year in the Midtown theater department, but not her first year practicing the arts. Aiden has done numerous camps and shows at the Aurora Theater, including Moana Jr. She's also a chorus student and takes piano lessons at Burke Music Academy.

VEGA BARR (HEAD CARPENTER/LEAD ARTISAN) is in 11th grade and has done tech on Picnic, Sweeney Todd, and Edward Tulane. And she also acted in Trap. That's all...bye!

AMIR BRINKLEY (Lawrence) Amir is 10th grader will always like to try their best on everything they do. Amir likes to make people happy. Amir is also on the track team pretty fast. Amir's family has been acting for a while and wants to also do it as well. He's been in multiple plays before ever since he was three.

NORA CRAWFORD (Nellie) is a senior, and this is her 5th production at Midtown. She has formerly played as Rachel (Procession), Annie (The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong), C (Cut), Nettie/Acting Director (Any Body For Tea?). Enjoy the show!

JAYDEN DAVIS (Sound) Jayden Davis is a senior and has been involved with Midtown Theatre and Film for four years. His previous shows include Matilda (Sound), Picnic (Sound), If You Were the Last (Boom Operator), and Between Heaven and Hell (Assistant Director) he thinks that is all the show he has been in. He would like to thank his family for their constant love and support throughout his theatre journey and he would also like to thank Kinley, Morgan, Marissa, Kevin, Ms. Collin, and Mr. Dreiling. he Hope you enjoy the show!!! IT'S SHOWTIME

JORDAN DAVIS (set construction) is a senior at Midtown High School, he has worked on 7+ shows over the years. Through it all he has found friends, a likeness for one light booth over the other, and many times were he's had to be the one changing lights in the BBT. He would like to thank Kevin, Mr. Dreiling, Ms. Collins, Mr. Hill, Trader Joe's , and Morgan for writing this bio. Finally he wishes Midtown high school theater well and hopes that it can find someone else to hang lights and do sound for their shows.

EILIE DEPENBROK (House Manager/Program) is a sophomore. She has previously been on the One Act show "Twelfth Night" and the musical "Sweeney Todd." She had a great time and a lot of fun. A special thanks to her parents for indulging in the crazy amount of time that went into this!

JULIA DIENER (Head of Costumes) Julia is a senior at Midtown and has been doing tech for Midtown Theatre & Film for three years now. She has had fun designing costumes for Edward Tulane and she hopes you enjoy the show and costumes!!

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REED FLOM (Jack) is a junior at Midtown High. She has appeared in shows such as Sweeney Todd (Young Lucy) and in Rent which is yet to come to life in January 2026. She has really enjoyed working on it she thanks the entire cast and crew for helping to put together this wonderful show.

HENRY GEURTSSEN (Construction/ Backstage Crew) is a sophomore at Midtown Highschool. He has worked on Twelfth Night Unplugged and Sweeney Todd as construction and backstage crew during his freshmen year.

CHLOE HIGGINS (Neal/Traveler Understudy) Chloe is excited to be part of her first play at Midtown! She'd like to thank her family for support.

DELVIN HOLLOMAN (Watchman) Delvin Holloman is very excited about playing the watchman in Midtown's adaptation of Edward Tulane. Outside of theater he enjoys pottery, singing, and cooking. He is very grateful to his director, amazing stage manager Norah Weaver, and his family.

YOKI HUANG (Set & Prop Construction) is a sophomore. This is their first production in theatre and they hope to work on many more! They'd like to thank all their friends for being very great, and you for coming to see the show!

ORION JAMES (Construction/ Backstage Crew) is a senior at Midtown and in their second year of working in theatre. They'd like to thank the theatre department for accepting them with open arms when arriving their Junior year while participating in Twelfth Night (Head Carpenter/ Backstage Crew). And to their Crew on Twelfth Night, never forget, they will always be your Head Carpenter. May tech theatre forever live on!

MORGAN JONES (Tech Director/Set Designer) This is the first show Morgan has ever Tech Directed; and they really hope that they are not banned from the theater program going forward! Being in charge of their little sophomores has been very gratifying and they can't wait to see them all grow into full fledged techies! Finally, they would Like to thank Ms. Collins and their big M for being so supportive <3

JACK LAWRENCE (Bryce) is a sophomore at Midtown High School and he has been in two other Midtown productions: "Picnic" and the short film "Between Heaven and Hell" Over the summer he was in "Grease" at Holy Cross. Jack just wants to thank everyone in his life (especially his grandma) for all the love and support.

PRESLEY LINDSEY (Traveler) is a senior and this is his second year of theatre. His previous roles include Twelfth Night (Guitarist) and Sweeney Todd (Anthony). He has also been the composer for the past two 48 hour films. Presley is the singer and guitarist of Midtown band Magnolia Black and an editor on the Southerner. He is incredibly thankful for all the support and guidance from Brooke Collins and the cast and crew of The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.

LIZZIE LYMAN (Edward Tulane): Lizzie can't believe she is a senior at Midtown and this is her fourth and final wonderful year of theatre. After her first experience as Sydney (Our Place) freshman year, Lizzie hasn't looked back, participating in at least one show every year. Some of her favorite credits include Matilda (Matilda), Winnie (Tuck Everlasting), and Demeter (Circus Olympus). Lizzie would like to thank her supportive family, her amazing friends, and Mrs. Collins, the best mentor and teacher a student could ask for. She hopes you'll come see Rent and can't wait for Mean Girls in the spring!!

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AUDREY LYONS (Abilene's Mom) is a senior and this is her 9th show at Midtown. Her credits include Sweeney Todd (Woman 4, US Beggar Woman), Matilda (ensemble, US Acrobat), Picnic (US Madge) and more. She would also love to see you at RENT January 15-17! She would like to thank Ms. Collins and Mr. Dreiling for their invaluable support, Marissa and Zoe for reminding her to pay her Thescon deposit and fill out her health form, her mom for sitting through a million self tapes, her dad for inspiring this character and her theatre friends for making all of this worth it.

BRIDGETTE MADDUX (Lighting design) is a sophomore at Midtown, this is their first year doing tech for a Midtown Theater Production. During this production they worked on lighting design.

FAIRLIE MERCER (Abeline/Shopper) is a senior at Midtown and is so beyond excited to be playing Abilene! Her most recent past shows at Midtown include Women 2 (Sweeney Todd), Alice (Matilda), Millie (Picnic). She would like to thank her voice teacher Mrs. Erin, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Dreiling, and her parents for their support throughout her time in the Midtown Theater department!

DANIEL MOLINA (Head of sound) is a sophomore this is his first year in theater tech his past work was in last year flim(between heaven and hell) where he was a assistant manager/sound mixer and had newly moved last year and found his place as a techie

JACK MORRIS (Bull/Bryce's father) is a senior and is excited to be in the show. His previous credits include ensemble for Chicago and Tuck Everlasting, as well as Sir Toby Belch (12th Night), Mr. Wormwood (Matilda), and Sweeney Todd (Sweeney Todd). When he's not on Desmos, he enjoys math, computer science, and playing the French horn. He is thankful for the support of his friends and family, as well as everyone who made this production possible. Special shoutout to my cats Chappie and Penny.

MAIA O-GORDON (Lobby design) Maia is a 10th grader here at Midtown and has previously worked on picnic and the spring film. Outside of school she likes to play volleyball, bake, and play piano. She's so happy to get the opportunity to work on this show and hopes she can work on more shows in the future!

MIA PIVOSHENKO (Old Doll/ Edward Tulane Understudy) is a sophomore at Midtown and is so excited to be a part of her 4th production, Edward Tulane! She wants to thank her sisters, Talia and Annika, for running lines with her, and parents for driving her to rehearsal. She hopes you enjoy the show!

LORELEI RUSSELL (Ensemble) is a freshman with a taste for the arts, including theater, singing, and playing cello. She thanks her family for their support.

LYLAH SCHAEFER (Lucy the Dog) is a junior at Midtown and this is her third year in the theatre and film program. Her previous credits include Osina (Circus Olympus), Script Supervisor and Props (If You Were The Last), Understudy (Twelfth Night: Unplugged), and Spencer (Between Heaven and Hell). She would like to thank Ms. Collins for trusting her with Lucy, as well as her parents and grandmother for always supporting her.

BEE SELLERS (Stage Manager) is a junior at Midtown and this is her seventh production. She has previously worked on Tuck Everlasting, Picnic, Matilda, and others. She would like to thank Norah, the other stage manager; Morgan, the tech director; and Piper Boatright, her emotional support. She also gives big kudos to the entire cast and crew for creating a wonderful show!

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PEYTON SMITH (Lucious) is a freshman at Midtown High School. This is her first show at Midtown and is extremely grateful for Ms. Collins for this amazing opportunity!

REGINA STYCZYNSKI (Amos/Hobo/Doll) is a freshman, and this is her first Midtown play. She loves theater, playing soccer, and debate.

ALYSSA TAYLOR (Set Design/Construction) is a Sophomore at midtown and, this is her second year participating in Midtown Theater. She has been involved in the shows Picnic and Sweeny Todd, and is grateful to participate in this show as well.

EVELYN THOMSEN (Ensemble) is a freshman at Midtown. This is her second production after the Wizard of Oz (Scarecrow) at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

MADISON THURMOND (Lolly) is a senior. She likes peanut butter and long walks on the beach. This is her first program bio since last school year, so she's a little rusty. I mean, what are you really even supposed to talk about in these things? Do people really even read them? Madison also doesn't like talking about herself in third person, it's creepy.

NORAH WEAVER (Stage Manager) is a sophomore. She has previously been a techie in the One Act show "Twelfth Night" and the film production, "Between Heaven and Hell." She is on the Southerner. She is really excited about this performance and about being stage manager for it. A special thanks to Mrs. Collins for coaching her through it. Another thanks to all her amazing friends and family for supporting her!

JAXSON WEEKS (Scenic Design) is a sophomore at Midtown High School, this is his first production and is looking forward to future shows! He wants to thank his mom and aunt for keeping up with his crazy schedule! And he hopes you enjoy the show!

ESTHER WILLIAMS(martin) is a senior at midtown and this is her fourth year doing theatre, in fact it's pretty much the only thing she does. Her past shows include Sweeney Todd (grave digger #1), Matilda (big kid ensemble), Twelfth Night (the attendant), The Prom (backstage mics), Circus Olympus (Aphrodite), and Our Town (woman among the dead). Thank you to my mom and grace and gianna and myself and definitely not jack morris!

LOLA WILLIAMS (Sarah Ruth) is a freshman at Midtown. This is her first production with the school and she is excited to be part of the program!

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The novel *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo captured my attention one misty afternoon in July. I kept trying to put it down, walking into the kitchen to get some tea or a snack, tears welling in my eyes, admittedly trying to take a break from some of the heartache of the story. The moments of learning, Edward's awareness of his wrongs... The awareness that the story evokes in me of my own mistakes in life. We all have them, right? However, each time I took a break, I could barely wait for the kettle whistle before I was walking back to pick up the novel. The story beckons you to finish, to see how it could play out – or maybe, just maybe, Edward will find peace and hope. The images created by DiCamillo's words floated in my mind and influenced the style of the play you are seeing today.

The stage adaptation by Dwayne Hartford captures the essence of movement in the novel while presenting it in a succinct way. We, too, wanted to capture that essence of movement through the geometric set pieces that are used to form different settings quickly, or through lights and sound that add atmosphere and define a space or time. Stars quickly became a motif in our production, as we dove deeper into the conversations of what the lives of these characters must have been like, living through the Great Depression and war, and the solace that they found through dreams, starlight, and their companions.

The journey of Edward, while it contains extensive travels, is primarily an emotional journey of growth, self-reflection, and an awareness of others. We hope that you enjoy our “little, complicated play” as I have taken to calling it. Thank you for being here and supporting our students in the arts.

Brooke Collins



MAIN STAGE

OCT 7, 8, 9	THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE FALL ONE-ACT
NOV 13, 14, 15	SHE KILLS MONSTERS FALL FULL-LENGTH PLAY
JAN 15, 16, 17	RENT JANUARY MUSICAL
MAR 20, 21, 22, 27, 28	MEAN GIRLS SPRING MUSICAL
MAY 7	MIDTOWN FILM FESTIVAL

AD LAB (STUDENT DIRECTED) PRODUCTIONS

DEC 1, 2
MAY 12, 13

AUDITIONS

AUG 19, 20 FALL PRODUCTIONS
DEC 16, 17 SPRING PRODUCTIONS

COFFEEHOUSE

SEPT 11	AMERICANO IDOL A REALITY TV COFFEEHOUSE
NOV 20	THE UPSIDE DOWN LATTE AN APOCALYPSE COFFEEHOUSE
JAN 22	YE OLDE BREW A REN FAIR COFFEEHOUSE
APRIL 30	CLOUDS IN MY COFFEE A DREAM-THEMED COFFEEHOUSE

TECH SIGN-UPS

AUG 18 FALL PRODUCTIONS
DEC 15 SPRING PRODUCTIONS

SCREENINGS FOR COFFEEHOUSE OCCUR THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE EACH COFFEEHOUSE FROM 3:45-5:45PM.

DRAMA CLUB

AUG 13	DRAMA GAMES & TECH TOUR
SEPT 16	THESPIAN+ TECH FUN
OCT 22	THESPY SHOWCASE
DE 18	HOLIDAY PARTY
FEB 11	FREAKY WEDNESDAY
APRIL 15	JUST DANCE 26
MAY 6	THEATRE TRIVIA

DANCE WORKSHOPS

GET READY FOR THE SPRING MUSICAL AUDITIONS

OCT 20, DEC 1

For more information about thespians, drama classes and to purchase tickets to shows, visit
www.midtowndrama.com